

Wefting Hair – information sheet

What is wefting hair?

Wefting is a way of sewing hair into a strip that can then be used to create a hair piece. It can be used to create a hairpiece using your own hair.



Materials needed

- A handful of hair elastics
- A hair band. These are available from Beau Chapeau, and can be ordered via the internet <http://www.beauxchapeauxheadwear.com.au/information.php>
- Velcro
- Vilene (a type of material that can be sewed onto other material to make it more rigid)
- Scissors
- Sewing machine and cotton thread

Instructions

Step 1

If you are using your natural hair, you will need to cut it off before you begin chemotherapy, or shortly after (before your hair begins to fall out). To ensure the best result, it is best to use hair that has just been washed and dried. You may like to ask a hairdresser to cut your hair for you, or you can do it yourself.

If you want to cut your own hair, divide your hair into small sections and secure the end of each section with a hair elastic. Then carefully cut off each section. The remaining hair on your head can then be clipped or cut into a short style, before you start to lose it naturally.

Note: not all chemotherapy drugs cause hair loss, so you may want to ask your medical oncologist or oncology nurse if it is a likely side effect of your treatment before proceeding.



Step 2

Take the section of hair that you wish to use and lay it out so that it is in a thin layer.

Make sure that all the hair is flowing in the same direction. All the cut ends should be at one end, and any curls should line up together. The ends that were closest to your head are the ones sewn onto the vilene.

Measure the width of the fringe you will need, the length needed across back of your head, and the side pieces. Cut Velcro pieces to fit these widths.

Step 3

Cut strips of vilene about 3 inches wide, and as long as each section of Velcro. The vilene will act as a protective barrier, keeping the hair from jamming your sewing machine. It will also make your rows of stitching straight and even, and help you to fold the mass of hair neatly. Don't try this without the vilene!

Thread your sewing machine with thread that closely matches the colour of the Velcro. Set the stitch length to a fairly small zigzag stitch.

Step 4

Lay the hair out along the centre of the vilene strip. Sew in a fine zigzag about 1cm from the edge of the hair. When complete, turn the vilene over the stitched row so that half the hair is turned over as well. Restitch close to the first row of stitching. Try to keep the hair evenly distributed without 'fat clumps'. Do in sections according to where you are going to place the pieces on the band. When you have finished stitching, cut away the vilene close to the stitching. Any remaining will dissolve away if you wash the hair.

Step 5

Once the hair is sewn onto the Vilene, machine sew it onto the Velcro strip.

Brush or comb the strip of wefted hair to remove any excess hair.

You can now either sew the wefted strip directly on to the headband, or sew the other half of the Velcro strip onto the headband and connect the two Velcro strips to attach the hair to the band.

You can then wear your headband with the wefted hair attached under a bandana or cap, as in the photos above.

Additional help

The following video shows you how to sew hair onto a ribbon which can then be used to create your hair piece. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrqgEr_C-kE